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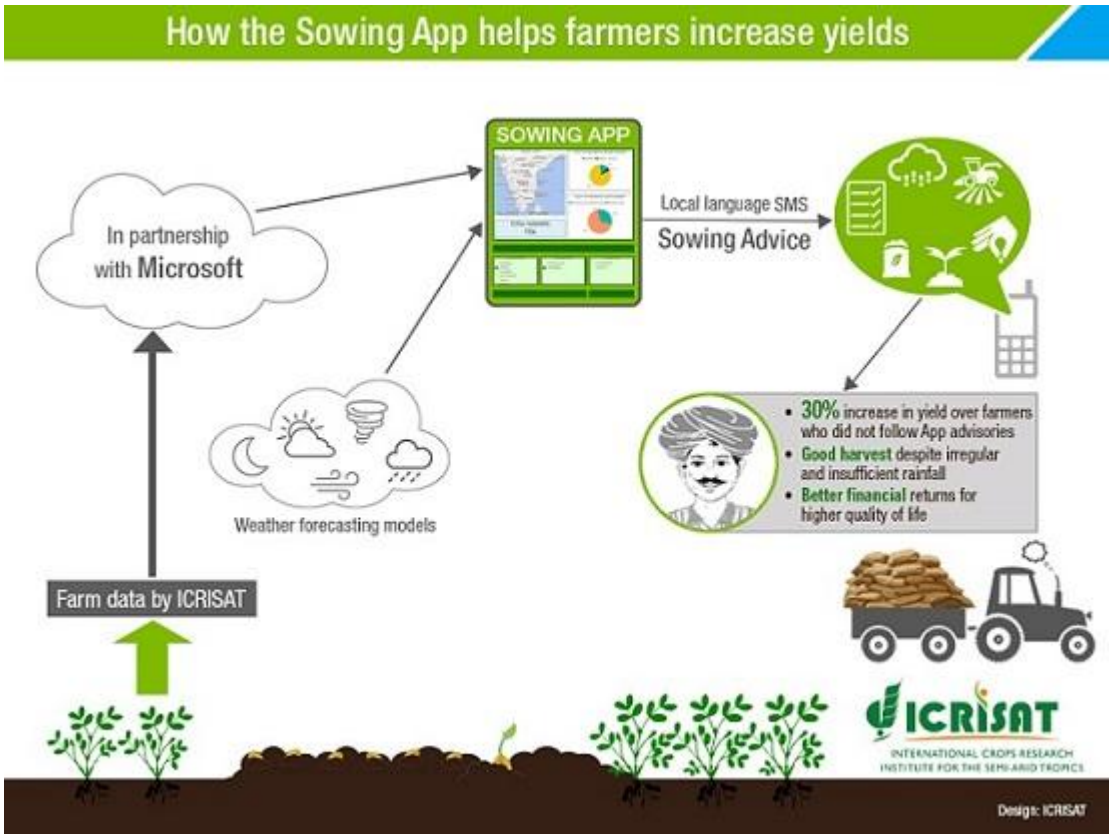
ROLL - 20051916

Agriculture may be the most ancient of occupations, yet its relevance has only become bigger with the imminent threat of food insecurity. Technology powered by Artificial intelligence is ensuring the sustainability of quality food production for the coming decades. AI solutions are being used to diagnose pests, predict the best time to sow and gauge prices for produce. Drones, hydroponics, artificial lights and AI-powered cameras are protecting crops from wild animals.

- AI-sowing app by Microsoft

Microsoft and a local non-profit, non-governmental agricultural research organization, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), collaboratively developed an AI-sowing app. The app is powered by Microsoft Cortana Intelligence Suite and Power Business Intelligence.

The Cortana Intelligence Suite includes technology that helps to increase the value of data by converting it into readily actionable forms. Using this technology, the app is able to use weather models and data on local crop yield and rainfall to more accurately predict and advise local farmers on when they should plant their seeds.



- Price forecasting model

The lack of information about market conditions is problematic for smallholder farmers. Farmers often feel compelled to sell their products to middlemen who exploit this knowledge asymmetry to their advantage. India also suffers from inadequate participation of agricultural produce marketing organizations that could advise farmers on global projections of demand and supply.

- Infosys Precision Crop Management

The population of India is continuing to grow at a rapid pace, which is placing an increasing demand on the already inadequate food supply. Combined with growing climate change and the shortage of arable land, the agricultural sector is faced with a challenge of exploring new ways of increasing the output, for less.